



Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions at the end of page 2.

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE
for the sermon preached on June 20, 2021
Finding Our Way Forward Week 10: "How Luke Saved My Faith"
Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-4



This week, in the final message of our spring teaching series, "Finding Our Way Forward," Pastor Bryan invites us to take one last look at Luke and his work before we move on. What compelled Luke to write this story? What kind of impact did he hope it would have? And most importantly, how might the story Luke tells change *our* lives?

Please note that this is the last study guide for the ministry year, as our study guides go on pause for the summer. We encourage groups to consider taking a break as well, perhaps getting together a couple of times this season for a picnic, BBQ, or pool party. Groups that continue to meet this summer should check out the resources available at grace.org/groupleaders/.

Group Discussion Questions

- At the start of the message, Pastor Bryan asked us to think of someone we know who's struggling with Christianity, or church, or both. That person might still be on the seeking side of faith—interested, but unsure—or maybe they're already a believer, but are questioning their faith. Maybe that person is you. Bryan asked us to keep that person in mind as we talk this week.
 - Without necessarily identifying them by name, share briefly about someone you know who is struggling now or has struggled with the faith.
 - Let's keep all those people in mind and in prayer as we talk tonight.
- Have someone from your group read Luke 1:1-4 aloud. Commenting on the relationship between Luke and Theophilus, Bryan observed: "We don't know if they had a personal relationship, or if Theophilus simply heard that Luke was a credible source of

information about Jesus. Most scholars think Theophilus was probably a new believer who was second-guessing his faith for some reason...Whatever the reason, he needed help finding his way to faith.”

- Who was “a credible source of information about Jesus” for you? Who helped you find your way to faith, either when you first became a believer, or at a time when you were struggling with the faith?
- When have you had an opportunity to minister to someone else who needed help finding their way to faith? What was that experience like?
- Pointing to a first big idea from Luke’s Gospel—“Jesus of Nazareth really lived, died, and rose again”—Bryan spoke of several ways in which Luke’s Gospel reads as an authentic, reliable account: 1) Luke’s references to specific historical events, people, and locations; 2) his inclusion of details so precise that they must derive from eyewitness accounts; and 3) his sharing of unflattering aspects of the Jesus story, which he had every reason to omit, and would only include if he was telling the story as it really happened.
 - What in Luke’s account helps you to believe the story he tells?
 - What questions come up for you as you read through Luke’s account?
- The second big idea in the sermon is that “The Jesus who lived, is the Jesus who lives, and His story is still being told through the church.” Once again, as Luke tells the story, he doesn’t hide “the dark underside” of the church’s story. The point is that despite “all its failures and disappointments, Jesus didn’t give up on the church, and still hasn’t.”
 - When and where have you seen evidence of Jesus’s continuing presence in and faithfulness to the church?
- At the end of the sermon, Bryan shared how an encounter with the Gospel of Luke in a dark season for him saved his faith, by reminding him of the beauty and the credibility of the Jesus story. He traces one final big idea from Luke’s Gospel: “Jesus came to save the world, the whole world, including you and me.”
 - When have you encountered the beauty of Jesus? Where do you see it most vividly? Is it in his compassion for the poor, his mercy toward sinners, his courage and strength in the face of suffering, his wisdom for life’s challenges, his love for all people?

Prayer Suggestion

Let’s close in prayer together, thanking the Lord for this remarkable portrait of Jesus that Luke recorded. Let’s pray for those of us who are new to this story, those who are struggling with this story, and those who are committed to this story. May God grant each of us grace to seek, follow, and share Jesus with courage and joy. In his strong and beautiful name, Amen.

How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.

- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Coach or Campus Pastor with questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. Please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team with questions about or feedback on the Study Guides.